

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDMOND YUNIS

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to pay tribute to Dr. Edmond Yunis, a professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School, who was recently named the 2005 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year by the Museum of Science and Industry, MOSI, in Tampa, FL.

Dr. Yunis is well-deserving of this prestigious national award as he has made significant contributions in scientific and medical research. This research includes the genetic mapping of human major histocompatibility complex, MHC, genes and their role in immune responses, aging, and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Yunis' laboratory work identifying genes also has been especially important for matching donors and recipients for organ and stem cell transplants.

Dr. Yunis was born in Sincelejo, Colombia, and he received his M.D. from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 1954. Dr. Yunis received his postdoctoral training in pathology at the University of Kansas, the University of Minnesota, and the Children's Hospital in Boston. He joined Harvard Medical School in 1976 as Professor of Pathology, and he became Chief of the Division of Immunogenetics of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute that same year. Along with being a professor of pathology at Harvard, Dr. Yunis currently is a member of the Department of Cancer, Immunology and AIDS at Dana Faber. Dr. Yunis has received numerous medical awards throughout his career for this outstanding work, and he and his wife, Borghild, have four children.

The National Hispanic Scientist of the Year award was established 5 years ago to recognize an outstanding national Hispanic scientist who promotes a greater public understanding of science and who also encourages increased interest in science education by Hispanic youth.

I'm also pleased to know the proceeds from MOSI's National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award Gala on October 22, 2005, go toward scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in MOSI's Youth Enriched by Science program, known as the "YES! Team." Established in 1991, the YES! Team program is designed to help at-risk youth develop self esteem and to encourage them to study science and consider science-related careers.

In conjunction with the weekend gala celebration, MOSI also is hosting a "Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day" where approximately 1,000 Hispanic students from the Tampa Bay area will get a chance to hear a presentation by this year's award winner and to get access to MOSI's hands-on science exhibits. Again, I want to congratulate Dr. Yunis for receiving the 2005 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year award. He serves as an outstanding role model for students in the Tampa Bay area and his visit will help motivate them to stay in school and to realize their dreams.

H.R. 4093, THE "FEDERAL JUDGESHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2005"

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act of 2005." I urge the House to pass the legislation expeditiously.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the President with the necessary authority to appoint needed circuit and district court judges and to increase the number of authorized bankruptcy judgeships.

A further purpose is to make changes in the structure of the court of appeals system, which are required to modernize, streamline, and improve the administration of justice for nearly one in five Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the last comprehensive judgeship bill that was passed by Congress was enacted in 1990. Since that time, the volume of cases handled by the judiciary has increased substantially.

The Federal Judgeship and Administrative Efficiency Act authorizes the creation of 68 new judgeships—12 at the circuit court level and 56 at the district courts. In addition, the bill contains authority to create 24 new permanent or temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

These new judgeships will benefit districts across America. When confirmed, these new judges will be in a position to help address a growing backlog of cases that threatens to clog our courts and imposes substantial human and economic costs on our citizens.

A judiciary that fails in its basic obligation to dispense justice in a timely, fair, and dispassionate manner compromises its own credibility. A court that is too far removed from those whose disputes it is responsible for adjudicating impose severe costs on those who must appear before it. The bill before us speaks to these concerns by providing for the realignment of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the establishment of a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Ninth has become so big—in geographic size, in workload, in number of active and senior judges—that it can no longer appropriately discharge its civic functions on behalf of the American people.

Consider: The Ninth has 47 judges, a figure that approaches twice the number of total judges of the next largest circuit. The Ninth represents 56 million people, or roughly one-fifth of our Nation's population. This is 25 million more people than the second largest circuit. The Ninth encompasses nearly 40 percent of the geographic area of the United States.

The Ninth Circuit also has the most number of appeals filed and the highest percentage increase in appeals filed over the past 4 years. It is the circuit-wide leader in the number of appeals still pending and ranks a close second in the longest median time until disposition.

Given these and other problems created by the mammoth breadth and size of the Ninth, I believe the responsible action is to modernize and streamline the structure of the Courts of Appeals.

Briefly, H.R. 4093 creates a new Ninth that will feature California, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The new Twelfth will consist of the States of Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Importantly in this regard, H.R. 4093 authorizes the President to appoint five new judges to permanent Ninth Circuit seats along with two other judges who will fill temporary seats. My bill provides that the official duty station for these newly authorized judges will be in California.

These additions are consistent with requests made by the Judicial Conference and will ensure that future caseload demands on the new Ninth will more closely mirror its judgeship resources. California is not being singled out or punished by this legislation. Quite the contrary, the district and circuit courts that affect the rights of the citizens of California are being provided with their proportionate share of resources and being liberated to become more productive.

Mr. Speaker, bigger does not always mean better. The constant expansion of the size of a court without also adopting commensurate reforms will, most assuredly, not result in improving the performance of the judiciary.

The allocation of judicial resources must be made with an eye toward achieving structural coherence within each circuit.

H.R. 4093 accomplishes that purpose and I urge its adoption.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
SHAWN BARRINGTON SILVERA**HON. MARK R. KENNEDY**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 20, 2005*

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and service of Officer Shawn Barrington Silver of the Lino Lakes Police Department.

Officer Silvera was killed in the line of duty on September 6th, 2005, when he was struck by a stolen car driven by a convicted felon attempting to evade arrest.

Officer Silvera was a Minnesota family man in the truest sense of the words. He married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, to whom he sent flowers every month to mark their anniversary, even after five years of marriage.

Together, Shawn and Jennifer had two children, eighteen-month-old Jordan and five-month old Madelynn.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Silvera loved giving back to his community and to society as a whole.

He joined the Lino Lakes Police Department in 1997, but took a leave of absence to work for two years with the Peace Corps in Honduras, where he helped build a community library.

Outside of police work, Officer Silvera worked with the Explorers program, to get teenagers interested in careers in law enforcement. He also served in the D.A.R.E. drug awareness program, and worked as a counselor at the local Safety Camp.

Even after all this volunteer work, Officer Silvera would often join the kids he worked with for lunch or a game of football or basketball.